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From: lbronstein@irisct.org
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To: HSTestimony
Subject: SB 895

As a Case Manager who has worked for 19 years with refugee families arriving in this country to start new lives, I support SB 895.

Being able to receive assistance while pursuing education or training would help parents get jobs that can actually support their families, instead of settling for whatever minimum-wage job is available right away. The investment of a little more assistance up front could make the difference between a family that lives in poverty for a generation or more, and a family that is able to become truly self-sufficient.

The provision to step down benefits gradually over a period of time would help ease the transition from dependency to self-sufficiency, and help to insure that the family does not slip back down to where they started.

Child care expenses are necessary in order for parents to work, and therefore it makes sense to deduct those expenses from income when calculating eligibility for assistance.

SB 895 is an important step toward helping families pull themselves out of poverty.

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